Students, professor remember Virginia Tech

BY KATE WALLIN
STAFF WRITER

This Saturday marks the fourth anniversary of the shootings at Virginia Tech, which ended in the violent deaths of 32 innocent students and professors before the gunman turned the gun on himself.

Logan Smith, a sophomore in Stegenga Hall, remembers April 16, 2007, “like it was yesterday.” A recent transfer to Virginia from Roanoke goes to Virginia Tech. Everyone knew someone there. Virginia Tech has a big campus, but it’s picture perfect, a place you would have never thought this would happen. It was the school to be at.”

Erin Doyle, now a senior nursing student, was a prospective student at the time of the shootings.

“I was visiting (Northwestern’s) campus that day. The girl I was staying with took me to breakfast, and we were sitting with a group of people I didn’t know. I was picture perfect; I couldn’t believe what was happening. They were talking, and I said something like, ‘Guys, do you know what’s going on?’”

It was happening right there on the Cal TV.”

The tragedy hits home in other ways as English professor Weston Cutter, then a graduate student and teaching assistant at Virginia Tech, was minutes away from the grisly unfoldings of that Monday morning.

“I had canceled a class teaching freshman English that Friday before. I wanted to conference with students on their first draft that week. I remember waking up at 9:30. All these sirens kept coming by,” he recounts.

“That was the beginning and the end of the day.”

Cutter describes feeling “incredibly raw” as the reality of the tragedy set in:

“We were all trying to get a hold of our parents who couldn’t get a hold of us. My sister called crying. It’s really something when your roommate calls up and says, ‘Guys, do you know what’s going on?’”

People think it’s the whole day since it says ‘Day of Service,’ but for you it’s only two hours,” said student coordinator sophomore Charissa Thornton. Half of the volunteers will work the morning shift, arriving downtown at 9:30 for instructions and directions and setting off to work from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

A free lunch of Pizza Ranch pizza will be served at Windmill Park for the morning volunteers returning from service and the afternoon volunteers before their shift starts. Following lunch, the afternoon shift will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

“The Day of Service is an important reminder that there are needs in our own community, that we don’t have to plan a long trip to a far off place in order to serve other,” said senior Kathryn Miller.

As an avid participant of Spring Service Projects (SSP), Miller understands the importance of service. “The community supports us by sending us off to other places on SSPs, and the Day of Service tells them that we haven’t forgotten about this community or the people here.”

From small business in Orange City to NW partners like Justice for All in Rock Valley, Saturday’s volunteers will be serving in a wide variety of ways. “I realize how big service is even living in a small community,” Currier said. “We have a lot of churches sign up, but also some elderly couples who want their yard raked or their windows washed. It’s neat that we’re able to help both big organizations and single residents.”

Not only should Day of Service be a fun way to say “thank you” to the community, but giving back [to the community] has never been so easy, Thornton said. “We make all of the arrangements. All the students have to do is reply to an e-mail and show up.”

Although it’s just for one Saturday of the year, Day of Service isn’t intended to be a one-time thing, but rather to show the students where there might be needs so that they can become more involved in the community on a more consistent basis.

“I think this opportunity shows us that we can make service here in our own community a more consistent part of our lives, because giving up a couple of hours at a time is doable for most of us,” Miller said.

Day of Service: NW unites for annual servant weekend

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold: service is joy.”

This quote from the Bengali poet Tagore embodies the heart, mind and attitude of Erin Currier and her student service coordinators.

As a part of the campus ministry service team, Currier is in charge of organizing this year’s Day of Service, which will be held on Saturday, April 16.

For the third annual Day of Service, there are slots for 250 volunteers to spend their Saturday volunteering their service to residents around Siouxland. Students, faculty and staff who have volunteered to serve will be divided up according to the number of workers needed at each site. Groups are usually around three to seven people, but some sites ask for up to 20 volunteers.

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Do you need physics to disc?

BY KATI HENG

For anyone who has ever felt that they lacked sufficient knowledge or skill to be a good disc golfer, there is some good news.

Watching a group of seasoned disc golfers can be rather intimidating. They seem so deep in thought before hurling their discs, as if they are visualizing and planning exactly where their disc will land. They look as if they have theories or rules that dictate the angle at which they throw. They seem to understand the wind and its power more than any human should.

It may make you question whether one needs to be a mathematician or memorize advanced physics formulas in order to play with such finesse.

For those of you who are not majoring in areas involving math or science, NW junior math major Aaron Appel offers some encouragement.

Appel began playing disc golf during his freshman year at NW. Upperclassmen and other friends from West were already big into the game, so Appel decided to try it out. He reports that he is a much better player now than during his freshman year, but sincerely doubts it has anything to do with the math classes he has taken while studying at NW.

"Math hasn't affected how well I play," Appel said. "I don't decide, for example, the target is 231 feet away and then throw at a 33 degree angle."

Appel believes that practice, rather than physics, is the key to becoming a good disc golfer.

"It definitely takes at least a month of consistently playing disc golf to get to a decent level," Appel said. During the summer, Appel played almost every day, and believes this extra time really improved his game, even while on break from the math books.

As a player practices more, he or she will get better at judging how far or hard to throw the disc, as well as how to account for obstacles in the way or the wind, according to Appel.

Appel sees his love of the game as having both a positive and a negative effect on his math homework: "It does take time away from doing my homework, but at the same time, it gives me a break to refresh."

Despite all the hours you might see Appel outside playing disc golf with friends, he estimates that he still spends about 66 percent more of his time doing math homework than throwing discs.

Appel does not believe his math skills are helping him out-skill his friends in disc golf, or other games for that matter.

"Besides poker, in which you can count cards and things like that, most games you play don't generally involve a lot of math," Appel said.

So if intimidation has prevented you from hurling a disc—give it a try. According to Appel, a man who knows, you can only get better with practice.

Amazon Cloud Drive, your music hard drive in the clouds

BY CALEB KESTER

As our world is constantly becoming more and more digitalized, many people are starting to look at ways to store data online.

Recently, Amazon released their online storage drive, Amazon Cloud Drive, and their online music player, Amazon Cloud Player. Amazon’s Cloud Drive allows you to store your music, videos, photos, documents and any other files worth storing on the Internet.

Amazon Cloud Drive is the company’s attempt at providing secure online file storage. They hope to entice users with free gigabyte (about 1000 songs) of free online storage. If more storage space is desired, Amazon offers tiered data plans, which average one dollar per GB per year.

Amazon is also offering a free year of 20 GB storage plan to customers who buy an MP3 album from Amazon.com, and are giving free cloud storage space for each MP3 purchased from Amazon.com. Once you have set up your Amazon Cloud Drive, Amazon will help guide you through uploading your files. From here, you can access and download any of your online files any time and any place where you have access to the Internet.

The biggest draw to Amazon Cloud is their Cloud Player. Amazon Cloud Player will find all compatible audio files and add them to your cloud music library. Imagine Apple’s iTunes or Windows Media Player, but accessible from the Internet. With its simple interface, Cloud Player is an easy-to-use, easy-to-manage, portable music player.

Some of the drawbacks to Amazon Cloud are due to its simplicity. Probably the biggest drawback is that only music files can be streamed. It would be beneficial if Amazon had an online video player or a document editor so that files wouldn’t have to be downloaded in order to view or edit them.

Another smaller drawback is that all songs and files are uploaded to the drive as they appear on your hard drive.

This means that any changes to the songs have to be done on your computer first, and then re-uploaded.

With an easy-to-use music player, Amazon Cloud Drive does a good job at storing your files. It will be interesting to see what Amazon has in store for their Cloud Drive—like whether it will decide to add a video player or a document editor.
Word-geek musician goes jazzy

BY JORDAN LANGER

Word-geek musician goes jazzy

BY JORDAN LANGER

AiC EDITOR

"Is he kind of out of it?" she asked me. And I have to admit that he did look a little lost in thought—his boohish muss and his suave, still lascivious gaze over our heads, and because he didn’t say much, just a few reticent thank yous.

But if he looked somewhat wane, as if in a white-powder comatose, I’d say it was instead just another tic of his canny meticulousness: same as the careful way he held the mic on his fingertips like a dart, or his calm way on the tambourine cues, or how he would scrunch down during sax-slaughtered interludes to take a two-sip mix from his three-drink miscellany onstage—a whiskey, a high-end beer and a can of PBR.

To get a sense of him: the Cedar Cultural Center, a cozy, ex-aged-therater venue that has wood floors and brag-worthy chai, brimmed with the Twin Cities’ messy-wavy haired literals—most of whom were bent on a shibb-ed bearing, leaving Destroyer’s Dan Bejar to mildly arrest the air with his poetic brimmed with the Twin Cities’ messy-wavy

But he recorded some of the vocals while making a sandwich, and somehow it sounds like one of the most caring things he’s done.

All of these swings, though, fit into the sound of “Kaputt,” which takes its weird cues and horn cheese from ‘80s smooth jazz and New Age—the kinds you’d surely expect to simply see what sorts of atrocities you can commit upon the undirected player. In a rather humorous twist on dismemberment, you retain full control over the limbs which have been removed. With the jaw-dropping amount of modifications included, one can find an almost unending source of violent shenanigans. Everything from Jousting to Buster Sword fights on top of buildings is included, and it’s not hard to make your own. There’s an automatic replay-saving function that gives you the option of saving a record of the fight afterward, which is quite handy. The highly stylized visuals make the “blood,” whatever color it may be, stand out on the unending hospital-white floor and sky.

However, the true beauty of Toribash lies in its multiplayer. Upon peeking into the multiplayer server lists, one is greeted by a few dozen servers with initially incomprehensible descriptions and room names, varied rules and mods. Traditional martial arts are the most common, such as Aikido, Judo, and Sambo servers.

The servers are organized so that only two of the players are engaging at once, with the rest spectating. When you join the server, you’re placed at the bottom of the queue to wait while the combatants above you are pitted against each other. Winner stays, loser goes to the end of the line. The tension thickens as you observe the movements of the two current fighters, waiting and watching as you rise in the queue, trying to glean what you can about the different fighters’ tricks, techniques and opening moves. Then you’re finally thrust out into the ring. You extend and contract your joints as quickly as possible, setting up your initial attack. The timer ticks until the moves are executed, your ghost enacting your future movements. The other fighter stands stoically. Staring at you blankly in a vague simulacrum of life, arms outstretched from the shoulders. It waits for its puppeteer to deliver it to victory or defeat.

Suddenly, the two marionettes spring to life, flailing toward one another with terrible abruptness, everything is frozen once more. The grim timer reappears. Tick, tick, tick. It ends up working really well.

See “absurd” on pg. 5

Check Out

Book: David Foster Wallace’s “The Pale King”

Finally, we get the good news that Wallace was working on at the time of his untimely death.

Video Game: Valve’s “Portal 2”

The original Portal was a hilarious re-invention of the puzzle genre, and the sequel runs with the idea.
Starting a finishable summer reading list

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER

The birds are chirping, the Frisbees are spinning, and the longboards are gliding across campus. Spring is finally here, and let’s face it: all you want to do is be done already. No more reading, papers or tests. I’m sure the last thing you want to hear about is a summer reading list.

But if you’re an English major or a reader by hobby, you’re probably already thinking about what you’re going to dig into this summer when you finally have time to read for pleasure. Think of the fiction you could get through!

Last summer I put together a very long list of classics to read. I’m going to get through the good ones, I thought. Title upon title of American and British classics filled the page, and once I was finished with the list I was quite proud of myself. It was the first summer I considered myself a “reader.” How exciting: me, a reader. Getting through Hemingway and Steinbeck and Dickens.

Since the list was so long (way too long, I’ll admit now; what was I thinking?), I didn’t feel up to even starting it. I came up with so many other things to do, much more important things. I’d look at that list and decide I needed to get a chai tea in the city. Just because I didn’t want to read.

By the end of the summer, I had read William Faulkner’s “The Sound and the Fury” and that’s it. I really liked Faulkner, but after finishing that title it was August. And summer was over, for all intents and purposes. I brought the list to school and tacked it on my bulletin board. Now it was much easier to avoid my list like the plague—I had real work to do. The list got no shorter; no classics were experienced. I crossed off the “summer” in summer reading list so I wouldn’t look like such a failure.

A blogger I know from Minneapolis takes a different approach. Instead of throwing away all the rules, he follows them to a T. He has created this blog called “The Year of Difficult Reading,” an accomplishment that, when he inevitably finishes it, will be incredible. He’s reading 12 novels this year, each infamous for its level of difficulty. He’s already made it through “Ulysses” by James Joyce, “The Instructions” by Adam Levin, and “Pale Fire” by Vladimir Nabokov. If you thought reading “Dubliners and Other Stories” was difficult, you had a walk in the park.

But if you English majors are feeling ambitious and want a challenge, try something like this. You don’t have to pick the most “difficult” ones, but you can choose the ones you know will be challenging for you. For you, this summer can be one of those “stretching-changing-growing” summers.

What are my plans for this summer? I’m determined to go about things differently from how I’ve gone about them in the past. I’m going for a more spur-of-the-moment, on-the-seat-of-my-pants kind of approach, without all the rules and structure. That’s what summer’s all about, anyway. Doing whatever you want because you can. Right?

Even if you’re not a reader, I encourage you this summer to grab a hold of a title or two that interest you. It’s your summer, so make this about you. If you’re browsing a bookstore and you see something that interests you, pick it up. Did you read something that you liked in your Intro to Lit class this year? See if the author has written other works. Not into fiction? Pick up a book of poetry or a historical biography or some satire. (Doesn’t everybody love a good satire?) Personally, I love a good political satire by Garrison Keillor or David Sedaris.

Bottom line: Read what you like. It’s summer, so you don’t have to live within the confines of “required reading.” Make it your own this summer; you won’t regret it.

See the side column for Alena’s smart, manageable reading list for the upcoming summer.

“A Good Man is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor

A new novel, it’s written by critically-acclaimed novelist Lutz and—get this—her ex-boyfriend. Sign me up for that!

“Light in August” by William Faulkner

Yes, a classic stuck in there, but I really did like Faulkner. I’ve heard that “August” is his best novel, so I’m setting to see if that’s true.

“A White Noise” by Don DeLillo

I bought this book last summer, hoping I would have the human decency to finish it. Honestly, I never started it. So I’m giving it a “retry.”

Adèle’s got a lot of soul for being ‘21’

BY AARON BAUER

Adèle’s “21” is, on the whole, at least two-years grown from her debut, “19.” And its brand of blues and its deep feeling of contemporary roots music has caught the public attention—having sold over 200,000 copies in its first week, it was the biggest-selling January release in five years.

Adèle’s latest opens with the definition of a powerhouse track in “Rolling In The Deep.” The song skyrocketed into the top 10 on the Billboard charts, no doubt because of the way she lure you in with smooth, convicting verses, then transitions into potent choruses. Although the opening track is probably my favorite on the album, the rest of the lineup does not disappoint. Every song emphasizes the immense leap into more confident vocals, not to mention a range of emotions that she can approach without sounding like a sell-out pop artist. The song that feels most like a radio hit to me is “Set Fire To the Rain,” but the formidable voice of Adele is far too developed to be lumped into a group with the women on top 40 radio today. Also, if you remember that 1989 hit “Lovesong” by The Cure, you’re in for a treat because Adele offers a smooth, somber cover on her new album.

The instrumentation on “21” works remarkably well, even if it’s a little boring in places (such as “He Won’t Go”). What makes it work most other times is the tremendous amount of layering they have done to some of the up-tempo tracks (“I’ll Be Waiting”). Each and every sound produced for this album is wonderfully marked with a hint of blues, country, and a whole lot of soul.

As of Wednesday, “21” was back on top of the U.S. billboard charts after a two-week hiatus. Having sold 88,000 copies last week, Adele reclaimed the top spot from Britney Spears, and is the first artist this year to reach the 1 million mark in sales.

Her home country, Adele’s latest album has been at the top of the charts for 11 straight weeks and rightfully so.

This album has also gained a lot of attention from fellow artists. In March, John Legend released an a cappella version of “Rolling In The Deep,” which is available for free from his SoundCloud account. Mike Posner has also covered the album’s opening track. And for you all Glee lovers out there, watch for Gwyneth Paltrow’s cover of “Turning Tables” on next week’s episode.

When it comes to female singers, I’m very critical, so “21” was a truly astonishing release to get a hold of. Take a listen, and expect to hear more from Adele, a very young Brit with a whole lot more to show us in the future. If you think “21” is the last of Adele’s growth and presence she will bring to the world, you are overly optimistic. Having sold 88,000 copies last week, Adele reclaimed the top spot from Britney Spears, and is the first artist this year to reach the 1 million mark in sales. In her home country, Adele’s latest album has been at the top of the charts for 11 straight weeks and rightfully so.

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A glimpse into men's fashion

GRET A FLOODING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I have been accused of writing a gender-biased column, which I have to admit, is completely true. My knowledge on men's fashion is semi-limited. I used to think that they didn't have as many options as women.

It appeared to me that men were confined to shirts and pants in varying degrees of dressy-ness. I always found this to be a little sad, since there wasn't as much room for exploration except in accessories, until recently when I noticed a few variations to these staples. Ergo, here is a column aimed at the other half of the population—specifically those with Y chromosomes.

It would seem that a whole new world is opening up for men. For instance, lapels on suit coats are changing color. I don't know why people haven't thought about this before, but it looks fantastic. A gray suit coat with black lapels is a fresh and unassuming, and who doesn't love clothing that assumes nothing? Another example: the "club" collar is making a comeback ("club" meaning rounded edges). This is a vintage throwback worthy of taking another look at. Even more profound: men's necklines are changing.

Necklines don't get enough credit. People don't realize what showing some collarbone can do for them. I don't mean that all men should get into the Fabio romance cover look, and I'm not advocating for pirate shirts—since I've only seen one that has just been torn off. Either by impact or by simply being wrenched off by your opponent, you're down one arm.

Different necklines create different "lines" in general, which is the same thing for women. A V-neck lengthens you out, draws the eyes upward and can make you look leaner. Another plus: changing your neckline could be seen as an act of social justice. I am myself, a social-feminist and all about equality, so I ask: why should women be the only ones who are able to wear V-necks? People are always bending social norms and re-defining "masculinity." The male population should step up and break down gender biases and stereotypes. Plus I know a lot of women who think V-necks are sexy.

The last thing I would like to address is the odd phenomenon of men wearing clothes that don't fit their bodies. It appears to me that some males think that baggger is better. Not always true. If you are a hardcore rapper I could let this slide, but since the average male is not, we should maybe look into this. Wearing clothes that are way too large for you make you look larger. Unless you really want to look abnormally disproportionate, don't do this.

The other thing is the length of T-shirts. A lot of you have really long legs, so if your T-shirt is showing off the top of your jeans, this can make you look like your legs are taking over the rest of your body.

Men, you should not discredit yourself from the fashion world. You are important, too. So to sum up this article for those of you who don't get tickled pink by reading clothing advice, vintage looks are nice, pirate shirts are usually bad, wear clothes that fit your body, and to be honest, this is all just opinion anyway.

Getting better sound out of old favorite tunes

BY JORDAN LANGER

With music, I've got an upsetting, near-serive craze for new music—a blog-like up-to-the-minute twitch. But I'll admit it: sometimes "this year's model" isn't all that great, and we're left parched and in want for some fluid sound to swim around in our bodies. Or, I guess we can be another way, too: the kind that'll stream the same tunes over and over until there's little to lap up anymore—assumedly high and dry, we move on to the next sound push.

Either way, I'm going to argue that there can be a lot of untapped good in those old tunes, and that most of us only get shallow, surface-level glimpses of the real thing. By changing up just a couple of things, we can all get a sound that feels fresh and processed, more rich, vibrant and refreshing.

Which things, exactly?

First, and most importantly, clear out all those P2P files you've stockpiled while Tina wasn't looking. Why? Well, even if you don't hunger and thirst to be righteous before U.S. law, torrents are the furthest thing from a sound oasis you'll find: you're getting an unfiltered, mucky texture with those radio rips and low-bit leaks.

And actually, you might even be getting as pristine or pure a sound as you could from your legal sources, either. While the ubiquitous acronym "MP3" sounds as if it'd be just as chemically sound and well rounded as, say, H2O, it's actually a formula designed to abbreviate what you hear in order to take off a little data weight from those outdated hard drives. Luckily, it's a post-terabyte world—by analogy, an upgrade from canteens to Camelbaks—and you don't have to lose the fuller, deeper variation of your songs.

So, for those looking for a little more flavor from their tunes, look for the more palate-whetting audio formats like FLAC, WAV, and Apple Lossless. Also, if you're importing from CD, you can tell iTunes to switch to these from MP3 (visit Preferences > Import Settings). Even though your iPod's technically marketed as an MP3 player, that's kind of a misnomer: it'll play the other kinds just fine. Sure, they'll take up about three times as much space, but just think, then, about how much sound gets sitted off of the other.

Second, it's time to be done with those white Apple earbuds. While most settle for the thin, shrill, and bass-less sound of these freebies, there's much better options out there, even for penny pinchers. In fact, where a decent stereo setup will easily suck you dry of $500, an impressive pair of headphones can be had for about a tenth of the price.

Okay, so what's some of the important things to keep in mind when seeking out headphones? First, don't mistake the mirage of over-sized bass for a natural, equal sound. Yes, you want crisp thump, but it ought to complement the high-end sounds. Also, you don't have to go Bose to get ones that are comfy and noise-isolating.

I wholly recommend Klipsch's S4 earphones, whose oval shape better matches the contour of your ear, and which has clean quality that'll have you hearing things you hadn't in your five years with such-and-such-record. The retail price on these is $70, but there's plenty to go around on the eBay marketplace for closer to the $45 mark.

Lastly, worn-out listeners, make a trip here and there to go see your favorite bands. It'll quench, and invigorate later listens in the in-between times.

‘It looks absurd’

Cont. from pg. 3

get everything perfect in time. You inspect the scene, doing your best to prevent your fighter from hitting the target, trying to keep all his limbs intact. Then the timer hits zero again. The fighters contend and twist, dodging and attacking at once. From among the grunts and inexplicable whooshes comes a terrible ripping sound. One of the bodies goes limp, all of the joints relaxing—including the one that has just been torn off. Either by impact or by simply being wrenched off by your opponent, you're down one arm.

Your Tori triumphantly finishes the segment, your opponent's leg firmly in his grasp. Now you are presented with a choice. Since even dismembered joints hitting the mat counts as a loss, you could simply hurl the leg at the ground, or out of the ring, and take the victory. Or, you could hit him in the face with his own bloody leg. This sort of thing goes on until one of you losses or a certain number of turns have gone by. If neither of you have lost by rules, it’s a measure of score.

After the match, the entire thing is replayed at full speed, and it looks absurd. The low levels of gravity and oft-indistinguishable fighters make for a horrible warbling mass of blood and headbutting. It looks ridiculous. After a couple replays, the next match starts.

In the end, Toribash is a game that takes a good bit of getting used to. However, when you accidentally win a match by throwing your own arm at somebody, then you realize that it doesn't matter how hard it is to learn, because creativity and quick thinking is more important than skill and experience, and that panic and desperation can cause hilarity, and sometimes even victory.
Facebook may be hindering our ability to converse

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

“One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.”

With 250 million Facebook status updates posted daily, it seems that Minnesota pastor John Piper may be a little too optimistic for our generation. Status updates cover anything from attitudes about class assignments to quoting music lyrics and movie lines to a simple statement about one’s love of food. And although they take no more than 15 seconds to update, could that 15 seconds be put to better use?

Although many do, not all of Northwestern's students use the allotted 420-character limit this way.

On its homepage, Facebook asks its users, “What's on your mind?” Although many Northwestern students do write exactly what's on their mind, there have been recent status updates that have led to further discussion -- maybe even discussion that's deeper than what's had in Kinsinger’s theology class.

Sophomore Gabe Harder posted a quote that he hoped would “get people talking about some deeper issues.” Starting with “the truth about Jesus,” Harder’s status was filled with what seemed like biblical truth. “Believe this and you will be in heaven, no matter what.”

Although Harder later stated that his status didn’t directly line up with his personal theology, he left the status open-ended. “I suppose my goal in posting [the quote] was to hear what people at school and back home thought about an issue, and to see if some cross-talk could happen between the two.”

He got what he'd hoped for.

Throughout the remainder of the day, comments and other posts were added -- some that agreed with Harder’s post and others that challenged it. NW students and Harder’s hometown friends dialogued about repentance, atonement, the fear of others that challenged it. NW students and Harder’s hometown friends dialogued about repentance, atonement, the fear that students are getting on Facebook instead of paying attention.

Sophomore Alena Schuessler and sophomore Kate Wallin, as it is with many student after student – even those not originally involved with the discussion – stated their agreement with Wallin, that the conversation should not be held over Facebook. Harder, whose original intent was for conversation like this to take place, then wrote, “Why do people blame Facebook – an intimate mode of communication – and try to call off discussion as soon as a conversation gets heated and some genuinely good thoughts have been expressed?”

Isn’t Facebook dialogue better than no dialogue at all?

Hollinger would certainly say so. “Can’t we embrace the importance of face-to-face conversations without totally condemning Facebook discussions?” Hollinger asked. “I think it would be best if we took advantage of technology like Facebook, while recognizing the shortcomings of it and the importance of communicating with each other in person.”

Are those just empty words or are you intentional about continuing the conversation in a personal setting? And if not, then what's the deal when it comes to your beloved social networks drastically altering your ability to communicate in person?

Are you more comfortable with a keypad at your fingertips than you are with a person sitting across from you? Harder, who initially posted the quote in order to facilitate discussion, said, “I was surprised when people said, ‘We shouldn’t talk about this on Facebook,’ as if the mode of communication stripped the conversation of meaning.”

The news sources and studies seem to have it right. Social media isn’t a fad. It’s a fundamental shift in the way we communicate. It’s not a question of whether or not you’ll use social media, it’s how well you’ll use it. Let’s prove the pastor’s quote to be true. May our use of Facebook prove that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.
Features

**Former at-risk student makes at-risk art**

**BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN**

Rein Vanderhill, creator of countless beautifully painted white-petaled blossoms, is an artist we encounter daily. This talented artist began his stint at Northwestern all the way back in ’74, and now he’s ready to move onto to bigger and brighter flowers, perhaps. But Vanderhill has seen many things over the past 37 years prior to retirement.

Amidst personal growth as an artist, Vanderhill also saw the move from the old creamery building to the new Korver Visual Arts Center. He says the move from the art building made NW’s art department “more legitimate now.” Though some would say we’re still not legitimate,” he said with a laugh. But regardless of whether people find art worthwhile, reality is that the art program went from “being isolated kind of off campus in a minimal facility” to an integrated part of campus life.

Now that the art department has more than two faculty members, Vanderhill has been able to focus more on his specialties, specifically painting. During the days of less adequate facilities when program growth was difficult to come by, the smaller department enabled Vanderhill to better discover his own artistry.

“The reason I started really concentrating on painting was I’d been here since ’74, and the art department was so isolated and neglected. I didn’t see much opportunity to grow it in relation to the college.” So Vanderhill said to himself, “Well, if the art department can’t grow well, then I need to grow as an artist. If I can’t get progress in one area, then I’ll get it in another.”

That, and a sabbatical in ’82, prompted the beginnings of the flowers. Vanderhill’s journey as a painter and artist began much before that, though. He recalls a recurring situation in second grade. Expecting no more than a simple stick figure, his teachers asked the students to draw their families. Vanderhill was the kid whose pictures were marveled at because they looked so much like his actual family. It makes sense, then, that Vanderhill was connected and active in galleries already in high school. Though he’s spent the past 37 years as an art professor, academics didn’t appeal to Vanderhill for quite some time.

In fact, he graduated high school as an “at-risk student” with very low grades and only got into college because his art portfolio was interesting and someone decided to take a chance. His first two years in an undergrad program at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, were a struggle, failing many of the classes required to stay and graduate. Vanderhill said, “Finally sophomore year, it hit me. I like making art. What do I have to do to keep making it?” Observing the life of his college art teacher, how he could make art and still get a paycheck, Vanderhill realized, “I guess I better get my degree.” Because he finally had a source of motivation, Vanderhill started paying attention.

As a college professor for more than three decades, Vanderhill has seen education change not only for himself but also here at NW. When Vanderhill arrived in ’74 and was hired by the late president Lars Granberg, he was told that he wasn’t doing his job well – especially since the president had gotten “an irate call from a parent saying my students are being led astray.” Whether it’s for better or worse, Vanderhill now sees the department leaning toward a more cautionary approach, though he admits “that’s just my opinion.”

Regardless, Vanderhill’s life as a teacher has served him well – especially since it saved him from fighting in the Vietnam War. After completing only one year of his MFA at Cranbrook Academy of Art near Detroit, Vanderhill was hired as a professor at a junior college in Michigan. This job as a teacher not only fulfilled a position for a desperate school but also allowed a draft classification, protecting him from leaving the country or going to jail if untruthful to fight.

Though he’s no longer avoiding a draft or struggling to stay in school, Vanderhill continues to mirror his “depressive pessimist” attitude in most of his artwork. Whether or not he always understands it completely as an artist, he has truly examined what motivates his imagery-making. Nevertheless, he said, “My paintings are hopeful. I am not. I’ve never really understood that.”

**ResLife face-lift**

**PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN STRAWES**

Future Fern RAs Emily Molko and Jordan Strawes and current Fern RA Sherry Runia fawn over sophomore Corrine Muyskens, who roleplays as Justin Bieber.

**BY JULIA LANTZ**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Next year is sure to bring changes in residential life with a brand new men’s dorm, the readjusting of First South Stegenga to its original gender of residents and lastly, the 2011-2012 staff of residential assistants.

Ryan Rydberg, one of next year’s RAs of the North Suites, is eager to be a part of the first residential staff of the dorm. Rydberg admitted that what he is most nervous about is also what he is most excited about – the fact that there are no established traditions or activities in the North Suites. “I’m excited to try to establish these new things but, at the same time, I’m scared that I won’t come up with good ideas.” In addition, Jason Katsma and Adam Verhoef will serve as RAs with Rydberg and will also be formulating the character of the suites through their leadership positions.

Meanwhile, Steggy will return to housing all six of its wings with women. Lindsey Boulais, a two-year resident of the dorm and next year’s RA on First South Steggy, hopes to play a similar role to her previous RAs by encouraging and loving the girls on her wing. “Even a simple smile can alter someone’s day,” Boulais said. As to the changes she’d like to make, Boulais said, “As far as activities go, I would like to do more with the wing and spiritual disciplines.”

Alongside Steggy’s fresh crew of RAs is a brand-new staff in Fern, which will include a new resident director. Corrine Muyskens, a two-year resident of Fern, will be the RA of Second South. “Just watching the RAs do what they do made me want to become [an RA].” Already having picked out her theme for next year’s decorations, Muyskens has a head start with her role as an RA. Beyond that, she’s mastered the skill of making delicious air-popped popcorn – a skill many a Fern RA needs to know.

Similar to Fern, West will start the year with a completely new staff of RAs and a new RD. Devon Cadwell will be...
Excitements and fears are one in the same for the new RAs

Cont. from page 7

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was a typical day at the home of Tommy and Sue Moon. A few students came by just to talk, while a couple of others drop in to snack on Sue’s famous tea and scones. This scene became increasingly bittersweet as the end of the academic year approaches, and the couple prepared to leave Northwestern to pursue God’s next calling in their lives.

Years before their time at Northwestern, both Tommy and Sue did short-term missions in Haiti. “That experience opened our eyes to the needs around the world,” Tommy said. After seven years of pastoral ministry, the two decided to become full-time missionaries in Latin America.

The mission agency appointed them to Puebla, a state in the mountains of Southeast Mexico where they served for 18 years planting churches and engaging in pastoral ministry.

They also spent the last nine years in theological education at the Puebla Bible Seminary training Latin American church planters and pastors.

Tragedy struck when Sue’s brother died from an unexpected heart attack and, shortly after, her mother’s cancer returned. In order to be able to take better care of her mother, Tommy and Sue felt the need to come back to Sue’s home state of Iowa. So, in September of 2007 the couple moved to Orange City and Tommy became the director of missions at NW. The job was a perfect fit.

One of Tommy’s favorite memories working at NW happened during his first year when Nolan Hayes and Amanda Dengler, that year’s SSP coordinators, introduced the Moons to The Office. “They would come over every Thursday to watch it, and soon it became an event,” Tommy said. “Students that we had never met were showing up at our door asking, ‘Is this place where we’re supposed to come to watch The Office?’”

The highlight of Tommy’s year is always the SOS debriefing retreat. “It’s a relaxing time, and I get to listen to all the stories of the students who just returned from the field. I never get tired of hearing what God is doing around the world,” Tommy said. It is easy to see how deeply Tommy and Sue care for the NW students with whom they’ve worked. They still consider the team who went on their very first SSP to Oklahoma as some of their closest friends.

Now Tommy and Sue are getting ready for a new adventure in Hood River, Ore., where Tommy will become the senior pastor at Shepherd of the Valley Bible Church. He is excited about getting back into “that rhythm of regularly preaching and teaching the Bible.” The couple is also looking forward to working together and ministering to the surrounding community that is 30 percent Hispanic.

Katie, the Moon’s only daughter, is happy to see her dad take a pastorate again. “Katie told me, ‘Dad, you won’t be completely satisfied until you’re back on front of the pulpit,’” Tommy said. Therefore, Tommy noted that “the position just seems serving as the RA for the first floor of West. “One of the main reasons I applied was to be in a position to ensure the quality of West Hall that I have grown to love,” Cadwell said. The West RA is hoping to interact with his wing by casually hanging out, having good late-night conversations and floor meals every now and then. “I plan on having lots of coffee on my floor next year,” Cadwell said. “Sleep is for the weak.”

Like Cadwell, Steven Ehlers is going to take a similar approach in Coly by making time to spend with his wing and getting to know each of the guys on Second North. “I learned that being intentional is one of the biggest keys to being a successful RA,” Ehlers said. Micah Czirr will be next year’s RA of First East College – formally known as the ghetto. He is looking forward to learning the traditions of a wing that will be new to him. He also hopes to follow his past RA by reaching out to the freshmen. Czirr explained, “My RA this year really helped me out when I was new on campus, especially since I come from Ohio.”

Next year, Hospers will have one returning RA and three new RAs. Wincy Ho, the current RA of the first floor, will return to Hospers to be an RA of the third floor. “As a current RA, I figured there is still more to learn, even though I have already done it,” Ho said. She looks forward to returning to the staff with Brittany Caffey, the RD of Hospers. Ho added, “I would love to keep learning and experiencing what different girls have to offer me to grow and try to improve since I have a second chance.”

Joining Ho next year in Hospers is Katee Wyant who has lived there for the past two years. Wyant is looking forward to getting a whole floor of girls together to just hang out. She confided that her biggest fear for next year is quiet hours, because that means she will have to be quiet as well.

It will be nearly a clean sweep for the residential staff next year, but traditions and memories will be passed on and upheld. Because, after all, how much can things really change in just one year?

Moon focused on students’ spiritual formation on and off the mission field

Students were showing up at our door asking, “Is this the place we’re supposed to watch The Office?”

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

April 15, 2011

Joe Krob, sophomore, said that “the position just seems like a perfect fit.”

May 2005, the former residence director said she had already done it and was still more to learn even though she has already done it. “I have already done it,” Ho said.

Along with his wife, Sue, Tommy Moon meets with Harlan Van Oort shortly after moving to Orange City to take the position of Campus Ministry Director of Missions in 2007. On Wednesday April 13, 2011 the Moons moved to Oregon to pastor a church.

The Office

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sophomore Adam Van Der Stoep is currently an RA in Colenbrander and will continue that position next year on Second East Coly. Near the end of the first semester, the Coly Resident Life staff took a trip to Buffalo Wild Wings — one of Second East’s favorite off-campus places of dining.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMRA FYNAARDT

The Office

Students were showing up at our door asking, “Is this the place we’re supposed to watch The Office?”

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMRA FYNAARDT
Opinion

Dear Iowa—give me freedom; let me smoke

Iowa, give me back my rights.

If I feel the need to fill my lungs with carcinogenic toxins, let me do so. Who are you to tell me what I can or cannot do?

If my school sees the value in letting my brothers and me sit on the Stoop in 20-degree weather at 3:30 in the morning, smoking a cigarette, why stop us? I chose to go to a private school to get away from state politicking, Iowa. I’m not even one of your full citizens.

I had the same hesitations about smoking as everyone else. Heck, when I was young, my brothers and I loved to yell out the car windows at people, informing them of the dangers of smoking. So when Steve Mahr walked to my window four years ago and asked if I wanted to have a Black (an old brand of clove cigarette that was the most popular brand on campus), I repeated, like the dutifully publicly educated boy I was, all of the evils and dangers of smoking.

Not a week later, I was out on the Stoop with my brothers talking about life for hours and drawing people in as they stopped for a quick smoke. It didn’t matter if you were at Heemstra, West or Coly—you could stop and hang out with the smokers, knowing you would always be welcome.

But now, Iowa, you had to go and relegate us to hiding behind Casey’s or huddling under the awnings of Jaycee Park, just to get a good lungful of smoke. We’ve become the outcasts of NW’s community instead of being its community builders.

In favor of the fresh and smoke-free air

Since the beginning of elementary school, many of us have had the health hazards of smoking shoved into our brains. There are people, like myself, who took that information to heart and have been scared to touch anything tobacco-related.

While the health risks of smoking have prevented me from taking up smoking, I can honestly say that it is not the primary reason I have abstained from it. Out of respect for my friends and family who do smoke, I’m not going to try to convince anyone to quit smoking, nor am I going to lecture on the health risks of smoking; I merely want to articulate why Northwestern should remain a smoke-free campus.

Likely the main reason I have made the decision not to smoke is because I have never been able to stand the smell of tobacco. Therefore, the first reason why I think NW should remain a non-smoking campus is because there are many people in our community who appreciate the fresh air. The smell of tobacco permeates everything: clothing, hair, breath, carpet, furniture, etc.

Can you imagine the smell of tobacco mixed into the combination of smells that already wait through the air here on campus? Imagine tobacco’s odor on top of the manure on the surrounding fields, or on top of the meat-packing trucks that pass through Orange City, or on top of the odors that come from Vogel Paint Center. It seems that fresh air is already hard enough to enjoy here on campus; why make the notion evermore fleeting?

The majority of NW’s student body does not smoke. We all know the health risks of smoking, and we have heard the hazards of secondhand smoke. If NW pride itself on being a safe and friendly environment, then the designated smoking areas should remain off campus. Students should not have to find themselves in uncomfortable and compromising situations.

Smoking has held a negative connotation for decades now. If NW wants to maintain its image as a positive learning atmosphere, it should remain a smoke-free environment. We should not want our “red folder” students and their parents to get the wrong idea about our community. The goal of NW for the past few years has been to increase student enrollment, and I believe remaining a non-smoking campus is a part of achieving that goal.

When smoking was allowed on campus in the past, it was done in communal settings. However, I believe that there are different ways we can encourage community that do not have to include smoking. For example, a few months ago a student initiated a campus-wide midnight snowball fight, which also turned into a large game of “king of the hill.” All it takes is some leadership to find those ways to engage students from all over campus.

So Northwestern, let us find healthier, more constructive ways to foster community here on our campus. Our experience is what we make it, so make it a clean, healthy and a good one.

You used to meet people from other dorms and other apartments because you shared a common thread. If someone needed a car jumped or pushed, there were smokers around willing to help. Smokers were (and are) caring, community-oriented people.

To clear the air, smoking is known to cause cancer, and cancer can lead to death. There are also reports of people developing cancer because of their constant proximity to smokers; their cancer can also kill them. However, in the vast majority of these cases, these are people who have lived in close and confined quarters with smokers. They are not a significant number of cases of the random passerby, who walks through a cloud of smoke and instantly develops lung cancer. That just doesn’t happen.

I am not advocating that smoking cigarettes, cigars or tobacco pipes are healthful (although there is interesting research that says smoking marijuana will reduce your risk of lung cancer), so do not misinterpret me. However, in all the years since I’ve started smoking, I have gone to doctors, and when they hear that I maybe smoke one cigarette a day, they laugh and tell me to not let it get to be any more than that, and my dentist reminds me to brush my teeth after (he also says that for coffee; I think he just doesn’t want to work for his money).

As is the case with everything, the key is moderation. And if that moderation comes in the form of a few cigarettes during the Friday night poker game in Mori’s garage, or sharing a cigarette or two on the Stoop at 3 in the morning with four friends who won’t start homework until 5, so be it.

Smoking brings people together, whether they want to ridicule the smokers or to join an addictive community. Cigarettes make people stop and talk. Have a cigarette or not, that doesn’t matter; but stay and talk for awhile.

Letter to the Editor: The ‘couple vibe’

I have been with Brandon (more affectionately known as Og) for over a year and a half. Since we started dating in the fall of 2009, a lot of things have changed, but one thing, unfortunately, still persists—the infamous couple vibe.

Let me start by saying that I hate the couple vibe. When we first started dating, I always felt like Brandon’s friends didn’t like me or want to hang out with me. Whenever we were in West, the other guys would rarely ever stick around. It hurt my feelings quite a bit; I struggled for long time wondering, “What can I do to get the guys to accept me?”

I came to realize that the guys weren’t avoiding me because I was Keely, but because I was Og’s girlfriend. People seem to have the impression that whenever a couple is hanging out, whether it’s at a public place like the Hub or at a more private area like the dorm, they want to be completely alone all the time.

While it is important for couples to have their alone time, you can see how a couple might begin to feel like they have some sort of contagious disease by the way people constantly avoid them. I know there are different types of couples on campus. You have the hobby dwellers, the couples who tend to say excessively long goodbyes, the nighttime walkers, the couples who sit in the corner tables in Vermeer Dining Hall with their backs to the rest of the cafeteria, and the hanger-barely-keeping-the-door-open couples. However, there are also plenty of couples who just want to hang with everybody and feel like they have friends.

Brandon and I are one of the latter couples. Sometimes I just want to hang in a group. I don’t see why I can’t see my boyfriend and all of my other friends at the same time. In fact, I bet many of the couples you know would tell you that they would love it if you sat at their table or joined them in playing an intense round of Super Smash Bros.

Please don’t give up on your friend just because she’s gone and gotten herself a boyfriend. Many couples on campus are surprisingly not nausea-inducing. And chances are, she misses seeing you as much as you miss seeing her. I bet that 9 times out of 10, that “couple vibe” is just in your head.

By Jenna White

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The Northwestern baseball team had a successful week on the diamond, going 5-1 in GPAC play. The run included sweeps of both Midland and Mount Marty, and a split with Concordia.

On Tuesday night the Raiders visited Concordia. They picked up an 8-5 win. Sophomore Taylor Morris picked up the pitching win after completing five innings and giving up two runs. Junah Matt Negaard did well in the leadoff spot, going 3-4 with two RBI. Junior Mike Zollel went 2-4, including a solo bomb to right field.

The bats couldn’t stay warm for the next game, as Concordia sent NW home with a 6-3 defeat. Freshman Ryan Brasser struggled with his command, and was credited with the loss. Morris was the lone bright spot at the dish for the Raiders, going 2-3 with two RBI.

On Saturday, the Raiders hosted Mount Marty. The home team picked up two more wins to the tunes of 13-10 and 6-5, with the late game involving some last-inning heroics.

The first game had two big offensive innings for both squads. The Raiders banged in nine runs in the fourth, but also gave up seven in the sixth inning. Zollel got knocked around a bit on the mound, giving up seven earned runs, but still picked up the victory to push his record to 6-0 on the year. Sophomore Corey Van Gorp and Noah Bohlmann both went 2-3 with two RBI each. Junior Mike Shields had five RBI in the contest, four of which came off a grand slam.

The back end of the doubleheader saw the Raiders dig themselves an early hole that led them to be behind 4-1 going into the bottom half of the sixth inning. Senior Clint Gingerich’s three-run homer in that inning brought NW within one.

Down by one in their last time up, freshman Cody Groskreutz and Shields reached second and third base on errors. Zollel was intentionally walked to load up the bags. Morris, who went 3-4 in the game, came up to bat and singled into left field to bring home a run. A Lancer fielding error on the base knock brought the winning run across the plate. Junior Jesus Santoyo picked up his first win of the season.

Last Friday night, the men won two hard-fought games by the scores of 2-1 and 6-4. Morris was on the mound for the first contest, in which he threw all seven innings, allowing only four hits and striking out five. Gingerich and Bohlmann both went 2-3 at the plate, and Bohlmann knocked in the only two Raider runs.

The second game had more offense for both teams, but three big runs in the top of the seventh inning gave the Raiders the victory. Junior pitcher Eddie Pantzlaff picked up his first victory of the season. Negaard went 3-3 with an RBI. Zollel was in the outfield for this game, and he went 2-3 and also knocked in a run. Shields went 1-3 but brought two runs across the plate.

Weide said about the recent surge of offensive output: “I think our guys are really starting to buy into what Coach Boeve is teaching them offensively and we are starting to see the product come to light. We’ve played enough games now for our guys to get comfortable in the box, and recently we’ve started to see the results of that.”

NW will play Morningside at home Friday night. First pitch is at 5 p.m.
Track & field host Red Raider Invite

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern's softball team recovered from two losses at Morningside to earn two big GPAC wins at Sioux Falls.

On Tuesday, the Raiders rallied to sweep the Cougars on their home field. Senior Jessica Hooper hit a two-run, two-out double to cap a three-run seventh inning to help the Raiders defeat USF 6-5 in the second game of the doubleheader.

The women's track and field team played at the Red Raider Invite. The strength of our team was evident, as our women's 4x100-meter relays were not run, as well as the second heat of the men's 5000-meter. Luckily, the meet lasted long enough for two Raiders to meet the NAIA qualifying standard.

For the women, freshman Dawn Gildersleeve and senior Charity Miles led the 1500-meter with first- and second-place finishes, respectively. The two women finished with times of 4:41.8 and 4:44.4. Miles's strong showing in the event came right on the heels of being named GPAC Runner of the Week.

Junior Stacey Dietrich and senior Andrea Larson kept close together in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing with times of 15.1 and 15.2 for a first- and second-place finish. Dietrich later placed third in the 400-meter hurdles.

In the 10,000-meter, senior Sara Hess pushed through to finish second with a time of 39:56.1, while junior Kylie Underwood placed eighth in the 5000-meter. Sophomores Leah Dykstra and Corrine Muyksens finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

In the women's field events, junior Elizabeth Stevens took first in the javelin with a throw of 127-03 while teammate junior Shannon Bowar, threw 103-05 for a fourth-place finish. Stevens also racked up 3,967 points for third place in the heptathlon.

At the pole vault, sophomore Jana Olson placed first in the javelin with a throw of 127-03 while teammate junior Shannon Bowar, threw 103-05 for a fourth-place finish. Stevens also racked up 3,967 points for third place in the heptathlon.

In the field, sophomore Matt Huseman and senior Logan Ogden won their respective events and met the NAIA qualifying standard. In the high jump, Huseman leapfrogged an impressive 6-09, resulting in a three-way tie for first and a new stadium record. Ogden placed first in the discus with a throw of 158-02, securing him a spot at the national meet. He also took fourth in the shot put (47-04) behind juniors Kiley Murra and Pat Dunham who threw 48-06 and 47-04, respectively.

In the long jump, sophomores Mark Johnson placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21-10.25 while sophomore Tyler Walker jumped to a seventh place finish at 21-09.25.

Softball bounces back with win road wins over Sioux Falls

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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In the women's field events, junior Elizabeth Stevens took first in the javelin with a throw of 127-03 while teammate junior Shannon Bowar, threw 103-05 for a fourth-place finish. Stevens also racked up 3,967 points for third place in the heptathlon.

At the pole vault, sophomore Jana Olson placed first in the javelin with a throw of 127-03 while teammate junior Shannon Bowar, threw 103-05 for a fourth-place finish. Stevens also racked up 3,967 points for third place in the heptathlon.

In the field, sophomore Matt Huseman and senior Logan Ogden won their respective events and met the NAIA qualifying standard. In the high jump, Huseman leapfrogged an impressive 6-09, resulting in a three-way tie for first and a new stadium record. Ogden placed first in the discus with a throw of 158-02, securing him a spot at the national meet. He also took fourth in the shot put (47-04) behind juniors Kiley Murra and Pat Dunham who threw 48-06 and 47-04, respectively.

In the long jump, sophomores Mark Johnson placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21-10.25 while sophomore Tyler Walker jumped to a seventh place finish at 21-09.25.

Softball bounces back with win road wins over Sioux Falls

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern's softball team recovered from two losses at Morningside to earn two big GPAC wins at Sioux Falls.

On Tuesday, the Raiders rallied to sweep the Cougars on their home field. Senior Jessica Hooper hit a two-run, two-out double to cap a three-run seventh inning to help the Raiders defeat USF 6-5 in the second game of the doubleheader.

The women's track and field team played at the Red Raider Invite. The strength of our team was evident, as our women's 4x100-meter relays were not run, as well as the second heat of the men's 5000-meter. Luckily, the meet lasted long enough for two Raiders to meet the NAIA qualifying standard.

For the women, freshman Dawn Gildersleeve and senior Charity Miles led the 1500-meter with first- and second-place finishes, respectively. The two women finished with times of 4:41.8 and 4:44.4. Miles's strong showing in the event came right on the heels of being named GPAC Runner of the Week.

Junior Stacey Dietrich and senior Andrea Larson kept close together in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing with times of 15.1 and 15.2 for a first- and second-place finish. Dietrich later placed third in the 400-meter hurdles.

In the 10,000-meter, senior Sara Hess pushed through to finish second with a time of 39:56.1, while junior Kylie Underwood placed eighth in the 5000-meter. Sophomores Leah Dykstra and Corrine Muyksens finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

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In the long jump, sophomores Mark Johnson placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21-10.25 while sophomore Tyler Walker jumped to a seventh place finish at 21-09.25.
The votes have been counted

BUDGET BREAKTHROUGH

BY BRIAN BRANDAU & LINDEN FIGGIE

Contributing Writer & News Editor

Americans waited anxiously last Friday afternoon for Congress’s budget verdict, and despite grim proceedings, a consensus was reached and budget plan agreed upon.

The budget plan continues current funding levels for all government agencies through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, except for nearly $40 billion of cuts. The measure was passed in the House late on Thursday, averting a looming government shutdown.

Numbers can be deceiving, however. The Congressional Budget Office reported that the savings will likely fall short of the $385 billion goal—between 20 and 25 billion for the remainder of this year.

The current budget also continues funding only through the 2011 fiscal year. Over the summer, lawmakers will have to tackle the as-yet unresolved and far more contentious debate over the 2012 fiscal year budget and outlays in the next 10 years.

Despite mounting funding amendments, Republicans question whether the current decision is enough for troublingly high deficits.

Some officials feel a lack of urgency coming from federal leaders. Florida Senator Marco Rubio (R) stated late Thursday afternoon, “I want to see this issue dealt with, with a seriousness and the intensity that it deserves,” MSNBC reported.

Much of the funding conflict revolved around federal funding of Planned Parenthood, seen by many as one of the battlegrounds for the persistent abortion controversy. Republicans refused to consent to continued support for Planned Parenthood, while Democrats insisted it was a non-issue.

Following the funding decision, Senator Patty Murray (D) attributed much of the sluggish pace of discussions to the Republicans’ agenda with political posturing in anticipation of the 2014 elections. Murray believed many of the conflicts would resume as lawmakers moved to debate on the budget for next year.

Coming into another election cycle, both parties were eager to position themselves as fiscally responsible as a wearying public becomes more and more dissatisfied with trillion dollar deficits. The two prevailing frameworks for next year’s budget come from Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan (R) and President Obama. Both foresee cutting $4 trillion over the next ten years, but their strategies differ immensely.

Representative Ryan’s proposal came first and drew immediate ire from his democratic colleagues. Ryan proposed enormous slashes to the budget, though many of his cuts were unspecified. Perhaps the most controversial tenet of the plan is that it would slash Medicare and Medicaid budgets. Medicare would be transitioned to a voucher system by 2022 and Medicaid would be administrated by states, subsidized by federal block grants. His plan allows for defense spending to be reduced by $78 billion in the next decade, on track with reductions already proposed by President Obama and Defense Secretary Gates. The plan would reduce farm subsidies, an item of particular concern in a state with such an agricultural base as Iowa. Other non-defense discretionary spending cuts have been suggested amounting to 30 percent of non-mandatory spending, but Representative Ryan did not specify what these changes would entail. He insisted that the Bush tax cuts be extended past their current 2012 expiration as well as a reduction of the upper corporate and individual tax brackets.

President Obama echoed Ryan’s cry to cut of $4 trillion over the next decade, but criticized Ryan’s plan, saying, “There’s nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending $1 trillion on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.” The president stated unequivocally that he would defend continued investments in education and infrastructure development. Obama made very few specific comments as to what he felt the budget could do without, but stated adamantly that deficits needed to be reined in. The president affirmed his belief that the Bush tax cuts needed to expire, though said he would support the extension of those which pertained to those in middle-class tax brackets.

One budget appropriation which was addressed by neither plan, but which has been under fire, is the Federal Pell Grant program. The decision reached last Friday initially included $500 million in Pell Grant funding, though sources conflict as to whether or not this cut will remain in place. The Pell Grant program, which provides grants for students under great financial need, would affect many students at Northwestern. The end of the program would do great damage to small private colleges like Northwestern.

Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey (R) addresses the conflict in the proposition to increase the debt ceiling. He said in a report from NBC, “President Bush Stephenson,” the big divide here is between an administration that wants us to raise the debt ceiling with no conditions and no change in policy—and those of us, like myself, who think we should raise the debt ceiling, provided that we have some structural and process reforms.”

Although a budget decision was made in near closing time, it doesn’t conclude the financial breakdown for the future. As students, remain informed and aware that our own financial circumstances are equally vulnerable. Education, healthcare and government programs will be challenged by such compromises.

Shooting, tragedy not to be forgotten

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from student to graduate student to professor.

“As a student, I think I would have just figured it was one of those random anomalies in the universe. You guys have no idea how glorious and safe and healthy and young you are. I think the gravity of what happened will increase the longer I am a professor. There was a 77-year-old professor, a Romanian immigrant and Holocaust survivor who barricaded the doors so his students could jump out the windows. Then I thought, ‘I get it.’ But I didn’t. I think understand it more as... it’s picture perfect, a place you would have never thought this would happen.”

And as the years do pass, Smith and Cutter both stress the importance of remembrance.

“The motto was ‘VT: Never Forget,’” Smith said. “It was important then to remember and now to never forget.”

“And after the shooting was the first time I understood on an emotionally intuitive level the value of people coming together,” Cutter commented. “It sounds so cheesy, but it’s true. The tears are actually doing something here; we need to get this out. We need to remember.”

Thanks, NWC!

“Thank you” hardly seems sufficient to express our deep gratitude to the Northwestern Psychology Club, students, faculty, and staff who sponsored, participated in, and attended the fundraiser for Brittany’s assistance dog, Katie, on March 31. Brittany’s first words the next morning were, “It was fun at the college last night!”

And then Sunday morning at breakfast she stated, “That was so cool...it was outstanding!” We are humbled that so many people, many of whom do not even know us, would care enough to help us raise the funds for Katie and her training. We were blessed by the entire evening, and the singing of Amazing Grace brought tears to my eyes. You all have been “salt and light” and we are so grateful!

~Laurie & Brittany Bolluyt & “Katie”